

**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN****UNMIS**Media Monitoring Report, 03 May 2007

(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

Three UN cars reportedly hijacked in Darfur

(Xinhua via SudanTribune.com) Three vehicles belonging to a UN agency have been hijacked in the western Sudanese region of Darfur, the Sudan Media Center (SMC) reported on Saturday.

The vehicles were hijacked by a group of unknown gunmen near Fashir, the capital of North Darfur State, but the persons in the vehicles have been released after being abducted for four hours, according to SMC.

The three vehicles were among a convoy of 6 cars which was carrying out a survey of local citizens' requirements when the abduction took place at UM Kidaibo area, some 40 km from Fashir

Ex-Darfur rebels claim AU forces killed 14 of its members

(Akhir Lahzah via BBC Monitoring, 2 Jun.) The field commander of the Sudan Liberation Movement [SLM] has affirmed that the African Union [AU] forces last Thursday [31 May] killed 14 SLM soldiers at Um-Za'ifa area in eastern Nyala [Southern Darfur State]. The commander said that the AU forces also injured others in the same area and that the injured have transferred to hospitals in Khartoum for treatment.

The military spokesman for SLM, Minawi's faction, Muhammad Hamid Darbin said that Nigerian commanders working with the AU should be held responsible for the incident. He told Akhir Lahzah that the presence of Nigerian Commanders has becomes an obstacle in implementing the peace process in the region. He explained that they have caused problems between the movement and AU in areas of Guraida and Ambru.

Explaining the incident, Darbin said one of a tank owned by AU forces pursued a military vehicle belonging to the SLM on the Niyala-Mahajirya road, adding that the tank killed and injured all of those on board the vehicle.

UN rushing aid to Darfur refugees who trekked to safety

(AP via SudanTribne.com) The U.N. refugee agency is rushing aid to hundreds of Darfur women and children that survived a 200-kilometer (125-mile) journey to safety after their town was attacked by planes and helicopters, a spokeswoman said Friday.

The 1,500 Darfuri refugees made the grueling journey out of the conflict-ravaged Sudanese province by foot and donkey, but are struggling to feed and shelter themselves since arriving in neighboring Central African Republic, said Jennifer Pagonis of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The refugees told U.N. officials that their town of Dafak, in southern Darfur, was attacked repeatedly by janjaweed militia from May 12 to May 18 and that their homes had been bombarded, Pagonis said.

"There were more air attacks even as they were fleeing," the Darfuris told UNHCR monitors, according to Pagonis. "Refugees said they will not return to Darfur before basic safety...can be guaranteed. Many of them expressed fear of further attacks."

Pagonis said it took 10 days for the refugees, mainly women and children, to escape Darfur. She said the agency would provide them Friday with 600 rolls of plastic sheeting -enough to provide temporary shelter for 3,000 people -while other U.N. agencies arrange for food, water and sanitation supplies.

Pagonis said there also were concerns about the CAR city of Sam-Ouandjia to which the refugees have fled. Sam-Ouandjia, in the northeast corner of the country, has been attacked twice by rebels in the last four months. The rebels are believed to have crossed from rear bases in Darfur, whose conflict has increased instability across the region where Sudan, CAR and Chad meet.

Governor of N. Darfur rejects request for regulation of passage through UN areas

(AlSudani) The Government of North Darfur State has turned down an UNMIS request to impose a "partial curfew" around mission areas in el-Fasher and argues that the security situation is stable in the state and the authorities have ordered a curfew.

Governor Osman Kibir who was speaking to reporters at his offices in el-Fasher yesterday said that his state has recorded only two incidents of insecurity in the last five months.

Other Stories:

- [Sudan, Kenya, UNHCR pleased by progress of South Sudan return](#)
- [Rights group asks UN to create Darfur oil fund](#)

The UN support package to the AMIS

AU said opposed to UN command for Darfur hybrid force

(AP via SudanTribune.com) The African Union has objected to a proposal for a 23,000-strong AU-U.N. force to help end the bloodshed in Darfur because it would give the United Nations command and control, U.N. diplomats said Friday.

The African Union wants joint control of the force, the final phase of a three-stage U.N. plan to bolster the beleaguered 7,000-strong AU force currently on the ground in Darfur, U.N. diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because negotiations to resolve the dispute are private.

The United Nations announced on May 24 that the AU and U.N. had agreed on the proposal for the hybrid force, and it was handed to Sudan's U.N. Ambassador Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad the following day. But on Friday, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was forced to backtrack.

He told reporters after briefing the Security Council that it was "unfortunate" that the African Union has problems with the hybrid force proposal. He did not disclose the problems.

"There was very close consultation between the African Union and the United Nations on this joint proposal," Ban said. "We are now working to have clarifications on some elements of the draft."

"It was unfortunate that the African Union has come back with some changes after the Security Council has adopted and issued a presidential statement. But I think on the basis of a spirit of cooperation and unity in working and addressing this Darfur situation, I am quite confident that the African Union and the U.N. will find common understanding on this issue," he said.

The presidential statement adopted last Friday by the council welcomed the transmission of the proposal for the hybrid force to Sudan and urged all parties to meet their obligations.

Ban has called for technical talks on the hybrid proposal on June 5-6 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and on Thursday, Sudan's Mohamad said his country would attend. U.N. officials said Friday they expect the meeting to go ahead.

On the political front, the secretary-general said, U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson is trying to arrange a "pre-negotiation phase" with rebel groups in June and July, "and I hope that before August we will be able to enter into the negotiation phase in political dialogue."

Ban also pointed to a new agreement on humanitarian access between Sudan and the United Nations.

UN chief "applauds" Chinese efforts to improve situation in Darfur

(Xinhua via BBC Monitoring, 1 Jun.) UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday highly praised China's role in improving the situation in Darfur, and rebuffed threats of linking Beijing's Olympics to the Darfur crisis.

The UN chief also expressed his appreciation towards the Chinese government for its continuous efforts to improve the situation in the African country.

"The Chinese government has been always exhausting their utmost efforts," he said. "As I understand, I appreciate it."

Meanwhile, Ban noted that he has been discussing this matter with the Chinese government.

China recently appointed a Special Envoy on Darfur, and President Hu Jintao paid a visit last February, he said, adding that China has also sent high-level officials to discuss this matter with the Sudanese government.

He finally clearly confirmed China's positive and helpful role in Darfur, saying he appreciates such a role played by the Chinese government.

SPLM condemns Sudanese envoy statements over Darfur rebels

(SudanTribune.com) The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) office in Washington condemned yesterday statements made by the Sudanese ambassador to the USA last Wednesday. The SPLM statement received by Sudan Tribune said that this remarks are "only reflective of the personal views of the Ambassador".

Ambassador John Ukec Lueth Ukec, who is designated by the SPLM in the framework of a power sharing deal, criticized the international community for not treating the Darfur rebels who rejected the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) as "terrorists" as was agreed in Abuja, he said.

This portion of the envoy's press conference has touched off an unprecedented outcry among Sudanese communities, especially those from Darfur who felt betrayed by the SPLM of whom Ukec is a member. The video of the press conference was widely circulated throughout web spreading outrage even among non-Sudanese who saw it.

The Sudanese ambassador to Washington held a press conference on Wednesday May 30, to protest the new sanctions imposed by the US against Sudan. The press conference was marked by the ambassador's sharp rhetoric and his vigorous gestures as he blasted the US administration, calling the sanctions an outcome of "bi-partisan politics".

The Sudanese envoy also expressed frustration for the lack of interest by US officials and the media in hearing Khartoum's side of the story on the Darfur crisis. He accused the US government and NGOs of exaggerating the Darfur crisis and denied that genocide took place in the war ravaged region of Sudan.

A senior member of a non-signatory Darfur rebel group speaking to Sudan Tribune on condition of anonymity described Ukec's statements as "feeble" and an attempt to "dehumanize the people of Darfur and undermine their sufferings".

The SPLM sought desperately to contain the damage done by Ukec's statements fearing its impact on their image as a revolutionary movement fighting for the rights of the marginalized population of Sudan. Some observers suggested to Sudan Tribune that Ukec's remarks may imperil the SPLM's efforts to play a role in resolving the Darfur crisis.

Sudan criticises US, UK draft resolution for new sanctions on Sudan

(*AlSahafa*) Sudan's Permanent Representative to the UN has strongly replied to a new draft resolution that the US and the UK intend to push before the Security Council to put more pressure on Sudan.

Ambassador AbdelHaleem AbdelMahmoud describes the US and the UK as “enemies of peace in Sudan.” He pointed out that the issue is no longer Darfur.

The Sudanese diplomat pointed out that Sudan has done all it was supposed to do in terms of the three-phase support package and now the African Union itself has turned away from the draft deployment plan saying that it does not represent the views of the organisation.

AbdelHaleem further revealed that he will be holding talks with envoy Jan Eliasson on the next steps towards a solution to the Darfur problem. He says Eliasson will be coming to Khartoum next week.

Other Headlines:

- [New US sanctions not the way to Darfur peace - Salva Kiir](#)
- [US should be 'ashamed' of new sanctions - Sudanese UN envoy](#)
- [SPLM condemns Sudanese envoy statements over Darfur rebels](#)
- [G8 to tell Sudan no foot-dragging on Darfur-Canada](#)

CPA

SPLA figures says no significant difference between the Parties over the Elections Act

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Minister of Investment says the CPA is facing a host of problems and the parties should put in more effort to strengthen their partnership in order to face the challenges ahead.

Minister Aggar who is also a prominent member of the SPLM notes that the Darfur problem boils down to a problem in power and wealth sharing. He said that the SPLM, as a party to the GoNU, would play its part in the peace process for Darfur.

On the forthcoming elections, the SPLM figure said that the parties to the CPA are not might in difference over the Elections Act.

Parties to the CPA resort to documents in a bid to reach solutions over Abyei

(*AlAyaam*) The parties to the CPA have decided to go back to the relevant documents at the Chambers of Federal Government in a bid to resolve the conflict over Abyei.

El-Dirdeiri Mohamed Ahmed, the NCP's point-person to the committee on Abyei, revealed that the parties have tasked Idriss Mohamed AbdelGadir [*state minister for the Presidency*] and Deng Alor

[state minister for Cabinet Affairs] to draft a comprehensive perspective on the forth coming meeting on the 9th of the executive committee.

White Nile, Total may work together in oil block

(*The Citizen*) The committee seeking to resolve the dispute over oil concession rights in southern Sudan has recommended that France's Total and the UK's White Nile petroleum company work together in the same block.

GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar said on Thursday that the committee had agreed to a similar arrangement in another block where Malaysia's Petronas and Moldova's Ascom Group of conflicting claims.

In announcing the decision, Machar pronounced the contested issue of exploration rights as "over".

GoNU

Chadian foreign minister says ties with Sudan improving

(*SMC via BBC Monitoring , 2 Jun.*) Sudanese and Chadian officials have affirmed improvement of bilateral relations between the two countries, saying that they are finalizing details for normalization of ties. Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol has said the meeting held by the follow-up committee charged with the implementation mechanism of the Tripoli Agreement of peace between Sudan and Chad is a continuation of previous meetings aimed at implementing this agreement.

Akol said today's meeting was aimed at putting the final touches to the normalization of relations between Sudan and Chad. On 8 February 2006, Sudan's President Umar Al-Bashir and Chadian President Idriss Deby agreed to end the crisis in the so-called Tripoli Agreement requiring they stop insurgents setting up bases on their territories and end propaganda against one another.

The minister went on to say that as part of the implementation of the agreement, a meeting was held in Khartoum on 1 May to discuss the details of the implementation of its articles, especially the military aspect which concerned the monitoring of borders to make sure that no party crosses into the territory of another.

The Chadian foreign minister, Ahmat Allam-Mi, said that relations between his country and Sudan were improving since the latest African four-party summit on 13 May. The minister added that since then relations had been improving and that the two countries held direct contacts.

Allam-Mi went on to say that the mechanisms that had been decided to monitor security issues and the issue of establishing security on the borders was progressing very well through joint forces between the two countries and under the supervision of Libya and Eritrea. He also said "we look forward in the next few months to activate this operation and expand it."

New measures in place to govern circulation of foreign currency

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Central Bank has introduced new measures to regulate interaction with foreign currency in the country.

The new measures include, among others, a ban in the selling of foreign currency for export purposes or bank deposits.

These new measures exempts foreign diplomatic missions and international and regional organisations operating in the country

The head of the Sudan Businesspersons' Association has slammed these new measures and points out that the state has reneged on the policies of liberalisation. He says that the private sector stands to face much harm as a result of these policies.

Ruling party condemns USA over fresh economic sanctions

(*Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring*) The Secretariat of the [ruling] National Congress party has expressed rejection and condemned the renewal of US economic sanctions on Sudan.

Participants in the march that took place at Ali Abd-al-Latif Street, where the US embassy is situated commended the decision taken by Khartoum State to reopen the street after a long period of closure.

Demonstrators also affirmed unity of all the ranks against the US sanctions against Sudan.

Ex-rebel movement advocates secular, democratic state

(*Al-Muraqib via BBC Monitoring, 1 Jun.*) The Secretary General of Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], Pagan Amum, has said that the SPLM's vision is to build a new Sudan, establish a secular democratic state through free and transparent elections and a state in which people exercise power through a multi-party political system.

While addressing the 24th anniversary of the SPLM at Al-Marikh stadium in Khartoum, Pagan added that the SPLM was working along with the armed factions in Darfur in order to reach a unified negotiating stance.

In a related context, the chairman of the legislative council of the government of southern Sudan, James Wani Igga, launched a fierce attack against the [ruling] National Congress party [NC] and warned the NC against playing with the SPLM. Igga said the SPLM was not like other political forces which had signed agreements with the NC, pointing out that 3 per cent of NC members represented the extremist wing.

On the other hand, the minister of investment and deputy secretary general of the SPLM in the northern sector, Malik Agar, called for finding a quick solution to the Darfur conflict and end the tension with the international community. He pointed out that the Sudan's crisis was a crisis of resources and how to distribute them fairly.

Other Headlines:

- President Bashir participates in Sahel and Sahara summit meeting in Libya (*AlAyaam*)

- Manaseer may be dislodged from the dam area before August (*AlSahafa*)
- [Sudan invites India to invest in oil, gas Sector](#)

Southern Sudan

Sudan's Ri-Kwangba: A meeting point for the Ugandan rebels

(*IRIN via SudanTribune.com*) Facilities have been established in Ri-Kwangba during the talks to effectively institutionalise the LRA in this remote location near the Sudan-Democratic Republic of Congo border - a significant political and social shift for the secretive group.

The meeting area - only a few hundred metres from the LRA bush headquarters in the DRC - has a water point, portable toilets, storage huts and a clearing for a large tent. When needed, international delegates are flown in and out by helicopter, and hundreds of plastic chairs, a generator, and a lunch of rice and stew brought in by road. Communication facilities and food have also been provided.

This is the only place where decisions can be made directly with the leaders. Kony and Otti are too concerned for their personal security to come to Juba, capital of Southern Sudan, where the official peace talks are taking place. But representation in Juba by LRA delegates is hampered by the movement's highly centralized structure and decision-making process. [*Follow the link to the full text [Sudan's Ri-Kwangba: A meeting point for the Ugandan rebels](#)*].

Other Headlines:

- Illiteracy affects banking in southern states (*The Citizen*)
- Southern Sudan airliners inaugurates maiden flight from Nairobi (*AllIntibaha*)

Darfur

Government ready to negotiate with Darfur holdout groups

(*Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring, 2 Jun.*) Presidential Adviser Eng Abdallah Ali Masar, has affirmed the government's readiness to hold talks with the groups opposed to Abuja Peace Agreement at any time and location without any preconditions so as to arrive at a political solution.

In an interview with Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram, Masar said the government is keen on negotiations but, it should not be in contradiction to the Naivasha peace accord.

He pointed out that Egypt can play an active role in uniting the Darfur groups and give the peace process an impetus. Masar stressed that the new economic sanctions imposed by Washington will not have a big effect on Sudan as the country does not have direct [trade] dealing with the USA.

Masar reiterated Sudan's readiness to cooperate with the international community to resolve the crisis in Darfur politically. He added that there are a lot of steps taken by the government towards this end and that sanctions will not resolve the region's problems.

Minister of humanitarian affairs pledges to overcome obstacles in Darfur

(SMC via BBC Monitoring, 31 May) Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Dr Costa Manibe disclosed that there are more than 200 organizations working in the humanitarian field in cooperation and full coordination with the federal and state governments.

Dr Manibe said that the government is monitoring the performance of organizations working in Darfur and is working to overcome the obstacles they face in the performance of their humanitarian and community development tasks.

He added that the United Nations and the Red Cross, in addition to the national organizations, are sometimes affected by the conditions in the Darfur region, but that the cooperation between them and the government will contribute to overcoming the difficulties.

He said that his ministry seeks to provide local employees to work for organizations to resolve the lack of workers in Darfur, pointing to the high cost of foreign labour.

France mulls EU-led force for eastern Chad

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) France is asking its European Union partners to consider sending a force of up to 12,000 troops to Chad to provide aid for people fleeing the Darfur conflict in Sudan.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed on Saturday that Paris was also trying to gather foreign ministers from Group of Eight nations plus China for talks at the end of June about the crisis in Darfur.

"We are saying there's a deteriorating situation in eastern Chad, where it is necessary to intervene to provide humanitarian aid to a population of around 400,000, of which half have been displaced from Sudan," said French Foreign Ministry deputy spokesman Denis Simonneau.

Liberation newspaper likened the plan to the EU's decision in 2003 to send around 1,500 troops to Bunia in eastern Congo to supply aid and stop fighting - the EU's first military operation outside Europe.

Some 20,000 displaced persons return to villages in Darfur

(SMC via BBC Monitoring, 31 May) Southern Darfur State Governor Al-Hajj Atta al-Manan announced the approval of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to support the villages of the displaced returning from camps.

He said that a joint technical committee between the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations, and the government discussed the humanitarian and security situation in the state and ways to support the displaced persons in camps and citizens returning to their villages.

He indicated that the humanitarian situation in the state is good and affirmed the voluntary arrival of 20,000 displaced persons to their villages because of the development and stability of the security situation witnessed by the state.

Al-Manan said that the displaced persons who have returned to their villages represent 13 villages, and that the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs has agreed to provide food, materials for shelter, and seeds.

Eritrean leader meets Darfur rebel leaders

(*Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring, 2 Jun.*) Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki has met the leaders of some Darfur armed movements in the hope that the factions which did not sign the Abuja Peace Agreement would join the peace process.

Yemane Ghebreab, head of political affairs in Eritrea's ruling People's Front for Democracy and Justice said the meeting had focused on the need to find a common platform and a common negotiating team.

He pointed out that delegations from Libya, Chad and the SPLM had participated in the meeting.

6 PDF officers killed in ambush in South Darfur

(*Rai AlShaab*) Six members of the Popular Defence Forces were killed in an ambush by unidentified gunmen on the way to el-Gardood, South Darfur, yesterday.

The group was travelling to el-Gardood to make arrangements for a rebel faction to join the peace process when they fell into the ambush.

Other Stories:

- [Darfur advocacy group fires its executive director](#)
- [Pope urges Sudan to resolve Darfur crisis politically](#)
- [Saving Darfur, multiple steps at a time](#)

Other Developments

Sudanese demonstrators denounce US economic sanctions

(*Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring, 2 Jun.*) Expressing their total rejection of the new US economic sanctions against Sudan, thousands of Khartoum students and youths have demonstrated in the capital today.

The demonstrators marched through the Ali Abd-al-Latif Street [where the US embassy is located] and lauded the decision [by the governor of Khartoum State] to reopen the street to traffic.

Other Headlines:

- [African intelligence and security services meet in Sudan](#)
- [Ethiopia to host AU conference on border issues](#)